

APPROVED: Meeting No. 26-95

ATTEST: *Paula S. Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 11-95

February 14, 1995

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on February 14, 1995, at 7:37 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor James F. Coyle

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember Rose G. Krasnow

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Councilmember Nina A. Weisbroth

In attendance: Acting City Manager Rick Kuckkahn and City Clerk Paula Jewell. Also in attendance were Recreation and Parks Director Burt Hall, Superintendent of Recreation Phil Bryan, Arts Programs Supervisor Betty Wisda and Arts Consultant Francoise Yohalem.

Re: Worksession with Cultural
Arts Commission

1. Proposed Master Plan for the Arts 1995-2001 - The Mayor and Council met with Cultural Arts Commission Chairperson Charles Goldstein, and Commission members Carole Butler, Catherine Irwin, Ken Lechter, Eileen Mader, John Moser, and George Northway. Mr. Goldstein said that the CAC was proud to be able to develop the City's first Master Plan for the Arts; the final draft was submitted for approval and discussion. The CAC worked closely with staff and expressed appreciation to the Department of Recreation and Parks staff

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for their assistance. The Master Plan is to be implemented over the next 6 years and establishes Rockville as a regional center for the arts.

Councilmember Krasnow remarked that the County Task Force on the Arts agreed that Rockville is a leader in the arts. Mayor Coyle pointed out that on February 13, the Mayor and Council had received a report on the status of Rockville Arts Place; RAP was successful in turning their financial picture around. Councilmember Dorsey said he was impressed with the Master Plan; he pointed out that the City would have to be careful that the Arts Master Plan was not seen as a "contract" and he suggested that some of the language in the Plan may need to be softened so that the City was not locking itself into a commitment. Councilmember Marrinan commented that the Plan was educational and he said there would probably be minimal costs to implement it. He noted the "wish list" on page 13, and said that although the items listed were not prioritized, there were some high cost items. If it was determined that there were priority items, the City may be able to work them into the Capital Improvements Program budget. Mr. Hall noted that some of the items, e.g., improvements to the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater, would be addressed in the CIP. Mayor Coyle said that the City would have to make an effort to educate people about the arts. Mr. Goldstein noted that the CAC had already established a public education committee which CAC member Peg Sante was working on. Mr. Northway said the CAC's plan was to present the Mayor and Council with a well developed arts program each year at budget time, with issues prioritized annually. In response to a question from Councilmember

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Weisbroth regarding process, Mr. Moser said the Plan would be made available to the residential and business community and the City's boards and commissions in order to solicit their input. The Mayor and Council discussed the following aspects of the Plan:

- o On page 12, some of the language locks the Mayor and Council into more than what can be reasonably accomplished. Some funds that are allocated for a particular program, i.e., the Art In Public Places program, might have to be allocated to something else.
- o The language regarding the CIP per capita funding would also have to be reworded because this funding cannot be locked into.
- o Councilmember Krasnow said she agreed with the Cultural Arts Task Force's proposal to have a fund similar to the Targets of Opportunity Fund; although she was not sure this could be accomplished. Ms. Krasnow suggested reinstating the \$1.00/ per capita.

The Mayor and Council agreed to review the draft Plan further and provide additional comments to the CAC. The final Master Plan will be brought back for adoption at a General Session.

2. Courthouse Square Park Art Project - The CAC reported that the original project was slated to cost \$240,000; however, the architect is donating the fountain foundation, thereby saving the City money. The five artists' submissions would

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be reviewed on April 8. The CAC will make the final recommendation to the Mayor and Council.

3. Art in Public Places Program (AIPP) - Mr. Northway reported that the current balance at the end of the Fiscal Year for the AIPP program was \$250,000. From this, the CAC recommended:

- \$175,000 (Courthouse Square art project; RCI is donating \$45,000)
- \$ 10,000 (Artist stipends, etc. connected to Courthouse Square)
- \$ 25,000 (Contingency)
- \$ 10,000 (Maintenance of current sculptures)
- \$ 30,000 (Hold for future decisions)

4. Indoor Classical Concert Series - Mr. Northway reported that the CAC received a \$20,000 grant from the Maryland State Arts Council. Fifteen thousand will be given to the National Chamber Orchestra and \$5,000 will be put towards the classical music concerts to be held in May. Since the Courthouse Square area is no longer available for concerts due to the construction, the CAC is looking for spaces in the downtown area to hold concerts.

5. Other Issues - Mr. Lechter reported on the Cable Channel 53 television show "Focus On The Arts" which will soon be known as "Focus."

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Mr. Goldstein informed the Mayor and Council that the CAC will be considering, as a last resort, deaccession of the "Family 3" sculpture which has been the target of vandalism. The CAC is also looking into art signage for certain sculptures in the City.

Re: Worksession with Historic
District Commission (HDC)

Staff in attendance: Planner II Regine Charles-Bowser and Chief of Planning Lisa Rother. The Mayor and Council met with Chairperson Dean Brenneman and Commission members Don Crawford, David Herson, Alice Kelly, and Joe Tomley.

1. Master Plan - Historic Preservation Chapter - Ms. Kelly reported that as outlined in the City's Master Plan, the Historic District Commission's job is to preserve historic resources in Rockville and to consider ways to expand the historic districts.
2. Historic District Expansion - Eligible Areas and Citizen Participation - Ms. Kelly said that HDC was exploring areas for expansion and would be recommending to the Planning Commission and the Mayor and Council a text amendment to expand the districts. There are a number of potential eligible sites that are identified in the Master Plan that include commercial and residential areas. Ms. Kelly emphasized that educating and getting residents to participate would be necessary; Mr. Crawford noted that the HDC had to be careful not to violate the Open Meetings laws when the Commissioners go out to discuss the expansion of potential sites with the residents.
3. Designation of City Historic Resources - Ms. Kelly noted four potential

historic sites that were City-owned properties: (a) Jacquelin Williams Park; (b) Dawson Farm Park; (c) Glenview Mansion; and (d) the Woottons Mill area.

Mr. Crawford remarked that the HDC is often faced with problems regarding lack of education and poor communications; he said that developers need to inform potential buyers of the historic districts and the sites that have been examined for future expansion. Ms. Charles-Bowser clarified that currently there was no part of the application process where property owners are notified that their property is under consideration for historic district designation. She said that a map amendment* (which is being planned in the future) would have to be filed in order to make such notification part of the process. Mr. Crawford added that corrective State legislation was also needed regarding the designation of historic structures. Ms. Kelly pointed out that there were certain exceptions (i.e., exemptions from the ADA requirements) that could be made for designated historic properties.

The Mayor and Council agreed on the following action items:

1. Education efforts should be increased
2. Staff is to look further at the four sites that are City-owned properties; HDC will make a recommendation to the Mayor and Council on these.
3. Work with the two historical groups in Lincoln Park (the Lincoln Park Historical Society and United Black Culture, Inc.) and get their cooperation with the enhancement program.

*City Clerk's Note: While map amendment was referred to, the correct term should have been "text amendment."

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4. Staff to look at the process regarding notification of historic district designations under consideration in order to give property owners more advance notice that their properties are potential sites.
5. The Chairperson should consider setting forth rules of procedure for HDC public hearings.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the Worksession was adjourned at 9:35 p.m. to reconvene in Public Hearing on February 21, 1995, at 7:30 p.m., or at the call of the Mayor.